FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 AUGUST 1986

Al-Asad's Libya Visit; Tripartite Meeting in Damascus

Damascus radio reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad returned home after completing his talks with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the regional situation, Arab developments, bilateral relations, and ways to confront "imperialist-Zionist reactionary plots to liquidate the Palestine question." The two leaders also received Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) officials Sa'id Musa Muragha and Khalid al-'Amlah, the radio noted, adding that Al-Asad and Al-Qadhdhafi emphasized their countries' continuing support for the PNSF's struggle to attain Palestinian rights.

A Damascus radio commentary said Al-Asad's visit to Libya underscores Syria's "constant and principled militant stand," adding that this was demonstrated by his declaration that any aggression against Libya is an aggression against Syria. A Tripoli radio commentary linked the Al-Asad-Al-Qadhdhafi talks with progress toward realizing "unity-seeking hopes and aspirations."

As for the outcome of the Syrian-Libyan-Iranian foreign ministers' meeting in the Syrian capital, Damascus radio said the three delegations agreed to coordinate their countries' stands at the nonaligned summit in Harare and to hold the next tripartite meeting in Libya during December. Iraq's Voice of the Masses radio derided the "trivial results" of the meeting of "dwarfs" in Damascus but warned that "these suspect allies" are seeking to sabotage the nonaligned summit by preventing it from adopting positive resolutions to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Libya

Comment on U.S.-Egypt Exercises — The current U.S.-Egyptian maneuvers in the Mediterranean follow the same pattern as previous exercises, which were timed to coincide with crises in regimes that are acceptable or subservient to the United States, the weekly *Al-Zahf Al-Akhdar* maintained in an editorial cited by JANA. The paper linked the current maneuvers with Israel's "defeat" in southern Lebanon and Egypt's imminent "bankruptcy" and "total collapse." While the United States alleges that Libya instigates regional tension, the truth is that Libya openly incites the people of other countries to revolution against their "oppressive" regimes, but without interfering in the internal affairs of these countries, the article continued.

Criticism of Gorbachev — Noting Western media reports that CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed readiness to meet President Reagan and British Prime Minister Thatcher, JANA's international affairs editor said that "peace-loving" people in the Arab world are expressing "indignation and dissatisfaction" with Gorbachev's action. The editor wondered how Gorbachev, a "leader of peace" who realizes that Reagan and Thatcher are "child murderers," can allow himself to meet the Western "bloodsuckers."

Opposition "Den" Destroyed — Revolutionary committees in Tripoli destroyed "one of the dens" of former Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush, Tripoli radio reported. A statement by the committees affirmed their ability to attack "subservient, backward-thinking traitors and their remnants inside and outside the country."

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi disclosed that plans are under way to introduce conscription in order to meet defense requirements and end the rebellion in the south, according to an article in the newspaper *Sawt Al-Sudan* reported by Iraq's INA.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes hit a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast the night of 25 August, according to a military spokesman cited by INA.

Iran

Arrested Pilgrims — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi warned Saudi Arabia in remarks reported by IRNA that Iran "can no longer tolerate" the detention of a number of Iranian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia under a "meaningless pretext." He added that the problem will lead to a "dangerous trend" in bilateral relations if it is not quickly resolved.

Gas Exports — An official announcement cited by IRNA disclosed that Iran will export three million cubic meters of gas per day to the Soviet Union this year and that this will be increased to over 80 million cubic meters per day by 1990. The resumption of gas exports is in line with Iran's plans to diversify its sources of foreign exchange, the agency added, noting that Iran also plans to export gas to Europe via a pipeline through Turkey.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the president of Cameroon announced the renewal of diplomatic relations during a 26 August press conference in Yaounde, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, the Government of Burkina Faso expressed its "indignation" at reports of its intention to establish relations with Israel, AFP disclosed.

Pakistan

Media reports that People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto has been charged with sedition are "false and unfounded," according to an *Associated Press of Pakistan* report cited by AFP. No such charges have been filed, the official Pakistani agency continued.

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Najibullah Visits Defense Ministry Establishments

LD231810 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, visited a number of technical establishments of the Defense Ministry this morning.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that having visited the various sections of these establishments, Comrade Najibullah encouraged the employees and officials of the technical establishments of the Defense Ministry in their duties.

Comrade Lieutenant General Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of defense, accompanied Comrade Najibullah during this visit.

Army Crushes Rebels in Herat Province Areas

LD251758 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] A BIA [*Bakhtar Information Agency*] correspondent reports that as a result of successful combat operations by the country's heroic Armed Forces, which were carried out to clean up the regions of Doab, Kamanah, Kakary, and the border regions located northwest of Herat Province, of the existence of counterrevolutionaries, a number of those counterrevolutionary elements belonging to the criminal bands of Golbuddin and Rabbani were crushed.

Twenty ammunition depots, 5 foodstuff depots, 4 clothes depots, a medicine depot, 1,000 rounds of mortar shells, 100 rocket launcher shells, a large number of assorted weapons including a communications system, and antistate documents were seized by the country's Armed Forces.

According to another report 15 arms and ammunition depots of the counterrevolutionaries were seized by the Armed Forces in the region of Kakary and two counterrevolutionary groups were crushed.

The report further adds that counterrevolutionary bands abandoned their resistance as a result of heroic operations by the Armed Forces and were forced to escape to Iran.

The report adds that following these operations, the state of Akhond [Iran], mobilized fresh groups from the counterrevolutionary elements and Guards Corps in order to compensate for the counterrevolutionaries defeat and to prevent their escape from Herat Province, and via Polband and Torbat-e Jam organized these groups behind their ranks as supporter forces.

But the heroic DRA Armed Forces, by a heroic attack on the enemy, crushed a large number of traitors to the homeland and revolution,and cleaned up a large number of Herat regions of the existence of murderers.

15 Killed in Airport Bomb Blast 11 Aug

NC221833 Paris AFP in English 1819 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 22 (AFP) — At least 15 people were killed and about 30 injured by a rebel bomb blast at Jalalabad Airport in eastern Afghanistan on August 11, sources close to the Afghan guerrilla [movement] said here Friday.

Two different sources said the bomb exploded in the airport departure hall shortly before a flight left for the capital Kabul. They said the bomb was left by an airport security official, sympathetic to the guerrilla forces.

The sources said eyewitnesses told the guerrillas the blast killed between 15 and 18 people.

An Afghanistan spokesman here refused to comment on the report. He said Radio Kabul, the official government station, had not mentioned it.

Guerrillas Reported To Overun Garrison in North

BK250919 Hong Kong AFP in English 0853 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25 (AFP) — Guerrillas overran a 320-strong Afghan Army garrison in the mountainous northeast last Wednesday, after a one-hour surprise attack, according to the Jamiyat-e Eslami group here quoting its local chief.

There was no immediate confirmation of the reported battle, at Farkhar in Takhar Province, from other sources. It would have been the first on such a scale in the region.

The local guerrilla chief, Ahmad Shah Massoud, well-known in the West after earlier fighting, moved to organise northern Afghan guerrillas several months ago, leaving his traditional Panjshir Valley stronghold northeast of Kabul.

A Jamiyat-e Eslami spokesman, quoting a written report from him, said Monday the guerrilas — suffering only five dead and eight wounded — killed 110 Afghan soldiers in a 5:00 a.m. assault at Farkhar and captured 210 others.

They seized heavy arms including a 76 mm cannon, and 70 tons of supplies. A night-long assault three days earlier had failed.

According to Jamiyat-e Eslami, there was heavy fighting in the northern Afghan Provinces of Takhar and Kunduz between June 9 and 17, which Soviet and Afghan Government troops launched several attacks against Massoud operations.

Police Deny Benazir Bhutto Charged With Sedition

NC251949 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25 (AFP) — Police in southern Pakistan's Sind Province Monday denied press reports that jailed opposition leader Benazir Bhutto had been charged with sedition, the official *Associated Press of Pakistan* (APP) reported.

Press reports had said Miss Bhutto, 33, had been charged with sedition last July 31 when she led a procession of her supporters and addressed a series of meetings in Karachi. She was arrested on August 14 and jailed for 30 days after she addressed a banned Independence Day rally.

The press reports, quoting Karachi police, said Miss Bhutto had been accused of instigating people to rise against the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in the July 31 meetings.

Sources in Karachi said that about 250 factory workers and labourers demonstrated in the port city demanding release of jailed opposition leaders and dropping of sedition charges against Miss Bhutto.

The APP said no such charges had been filed and called the reports "false and unfounded."

Bhutto Remarks

BK260855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] In Pakistan, the agitation by the opposition Movement for Restoration of Democracy against the military regime is continuing throughout the country. In Rawalpindi, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] workers are courting arrests at various places. According to a report published in the daily *Muslim*, two PPP workers suffered burn injuries when they attempted self-immolation in protest against what they called the barbaric attitude of the present regime toward Miss Bhutto and other opposition leaders. The PPP leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, has said the military regime would not succeed in forcing them to abandon their mission. In a message from Karachi jail, where she is lodged, Miss Bhutto said we will not be cowed down by lathis [batons] or bullets. They will not succeed in intimidating us to forego our mision, she added.

The Pakistan law minister, Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, has said that his government is ready to open a dialogue with the opposition parties on any issue except that of holding fresh elections. He said the government will not withdraw cases against the politicians arrested recently, and they will be produced in ordinary courts for trial.

Junejo Says 'No Proof' of Indian Interference

BK251455 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] The Pakistan prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said that he has no proof of Indian interference in the political developments in the Sind Province. He was commenting on reports in a section of the Pakistani press.

Meanwhile, the opposition group in the National Assembly has rejected Mr Junejo's invitation for a meeting to discuss the current political crisis in the country. The group led by Mr Fakr Imam has, however, demanded that besides members of the assembly representatives of all political parties be invited for a dialogue on the situation.

Saudi Press Interviews President Ziaul Haq

LD221540 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 22 Aug (SPA) — Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has stated that he has witnessed a big difference between the services offered to the pilgrimage and pilgrims in 1978, and what is being offered to them now. He said that the facilities and services which the government of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz is providing to the pilgrims deserves all thanks and gratitude from all Muslims who visit the holy places.

Ziaul Haq was speaking during an interview with the Saudi press agency. [passage omitted]

In his interview with SPA, Ziaul Haq spoke of the conditions of Afghan emigres in Pakistan and said that there are 3 million Afghan immigrants and refugees in Pakistan. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani president then spoke of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the efforts being exerted on all levels to end it. He said that despite the Islamic countries' great efforts, particularly the Good Offices Committee, and the nonaligned countries, and the efforts of the UN secretary-general for halting the fighting among the Muslim brothers, the war continues. Efforts also are continuing to halt it, he said, adding: We consider Iraq and Iran as two Muslim countries and their losses are not confined to them but to the entire Muslim world.

He described the economic conditions in Pakistan as excellent though the general economic picture in the developing countries in particular is unfavorable. He said if an Islamic common market were to be created, the economic conditions of those countries and the world would be better particularly because there are 44 Islamic countries with a combined population of a billion people. Furthermore, he said, the Islamic world possesses agricultural and industrial wealth, as well as manpower, and controls most of the water straits.

The Pakistani president reiterated that the nuclear reactors in Pakistan are intended for the purely peaceful use of atomic energy. He added: We again affirm and declare this fact to the world, because Pakistan enjoys an Islamic spirit and its efforts in this field will succeed, God willing.

Ziaul Haq spoke of the Islamic Summit Conference which is scheduled to be held in Kuwait in 1987 and said: We attach great hopes to this conference because when all the Muslim leaders meet, an ideal way will be devised to benefit Islamic unity. Because Pakistan chairs the Islamic Conference's Science

and Technology Committee which aims at coordination and cooperation among the Islamic countries in that field, the committee will meet in October in Islamabad to prepare a report to be submitted to the Islamic Summit Conference in Kuwait.

Ziaul Haq also spoke of the proposed Islamic Court of Justice and said we have offered several proposals and visualizations regarding this court.

In conclusion, Ziaul Haq thanked King Fahd and the Saudi Arabian Kingdom for providing work opportunities for Pakistani workers in the Kingdom and for the hospitality they are given. [passage omitted]

Here follows the full text of the interview given by Ziaul Haq: [passage omitted]

Question: The Islamic nation is facing more than one problem, though the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Iraqi-Iranian war might be the most prominent. It is a fact that your country helps to absorb large numbers of Afghan Muslims for whom it provides shelter. But recent reports have spoken of foreign attacks on Pakistani territory on the pretext of chasing these refugees. How can your country face up to this, and is there any hope that the Soviets will withdraw and that Afghanistan will become Muslim again? Will comprehensive peace prevail among the neighbors?

Answer: When the coup d'etat took place in Afghanistan in 1978, its population numbered 15 million. This number has now dropped significantly in view of the 3 million Afghans in Pakistan. We provide them with all support and help out of a purely Islamic feeling. God willing, we will continue to do so.

Anyone who reads old and contemporary Afghan history will realize that it always resisted foreign occupation and foreign control. Anyone who meets an Afghan refugee or immigrant readily reads in his eyes his strong faith and his determination to return to his homeland.

Though the USSR sought to change the map of Afghanistan, to end the Islamic spirit within the Afghan people, and to turn Afghanistan into a socialist state by occupying Afghanistan 6 years ago, it has failed to do so and is now paying a high price in light of the Afghani mujahidin's desperate and effective resistance which is founded on their faith in God Almighty and their right to defend their country.

Furthermore, the USSR is now attacking the Afghans inside Afghanistan in order to force them to seek refuge in Pakistan and thus to vacate Afghanistan of its people. When these Afghans enter Pakistan, the Soviets strike at Pakistan's borders to pressure the Pakistani Government into withholding aid from the Afghan refugees.

But I am confident that it will not be long before the Muslim free state of Afghanistan is created. This is not much to ask of God.

Question: Your Excellency, Pakistan is accused every now and then of exploiting its nuclear reactors for military purposes and that it intends to manufacture a nuclear bomb at a time when Pakistani officials have confirmed that these claims are unfounded and that their reactors are being used for peaceful purposes only. What is the objective, in your opinion, of repeating such claims, and why do we not hear threats being addressed to other states like Israel which have such reactors?

Answer: There is an Urdu proverb which says the one who has an ox must have a stick. A similar proverb exists in English which says everyone who has strength proves his sayings himself. Perhaps the best response to those claims, which strive to subject Pakistan to the will of other states, is to tell them that Pakistan enjoys an Islamic spirit and we already have confirmed in several statements that the efforts surrounding the atom are being exerted for purely peaceful purposes and, God willing, Pakistan will succeed in its efforts.

Question: What are Your Excellency's expectations from the Islamic summit scheduled to meet in Kuwait and what are the most important issues on its agenda? Lastly, what about the international court of justice?

Answer: We pin great hopes upon this conference because when all of the Islamic leaders meet they will find the ideal way to use Islamic unity. And since Pakistan chairs the Committee of Science and Technology stemming from the Islamic conference with the aim of coordination and cooperation among the Islamic states in this field, the committee is due to meet next October in Islamabad to prepare a report to be submitted to the Kuwait Islamic Summit Conference. As regards the international court of justice, we presented a number of proposals and visualizations regarding this matter. [passage omitted]

Afghan Rebel Capture of Takhar Post Reported

BK260243 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin have captured a major Soviet-Kabul Army garrison in northern Takhar Province. A large number of Soviet-Kabul forces were either killed or wounded in the attack and more than 200 soldiers were captured. The mujahidin also seized a large quantity of weapons. Western diplomats say that the mujahidin often attack the Afghan capital of Kabul with rockets from the nearby hilly areas.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Nonaligned Conference

BK251545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left for Zimbabwe today where he will participate in the foreign ministers' conference of the Nonaligned Movement on Thursday [28 August].

BANGLADESH

Soviet 'Special Envoy' Arrives for 1-Week Visit

BK251600 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] A special envoy of the Soviet Government arrived in Dhaka today on a weeklong visit to Bangladesh. During his visit the ambassador, Mr O.V. Bostorine, is expected to call on President Ershad. He will also have talks with Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury on international, regional, and bilateral issues of mutual interest.

37 Held Following Bomb Blast; 3 Injured

BK230506 Hong Kong AFP in English 0457 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 23 (AFP) — The police said Saturday they had detained 37 people for questioning following a bomb blast that injured at least three men at a dental students' hostel here on Friday.

Officers recovered about 50 live bombs and seized a huge quantity of bomb-making materials from two rooms of the hostel, the police said.

Of the three young men injured in the blast, two were seriously wounded and admitted to hospital unconscious.

The blast occurred while they were manufacturing bombs in a ground-floor room in the hostel, the police suspect.

The police said they had cordoned off the hostel and taken in 37 inmates for interrogation.

INDIA

Iran's Velayati Meets Rajiv Ghandi, Others; Departs

LD221737 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 22, IRNA — Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met and conferred with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi here Friday morning.

In the meeting Velayati informed Gandhi of the results of his talks with other Indian officials as well as the importance of the meetings. He also briefed the Indian premier on his recently concluded trips to African and other non-aligned member countries.

The Iranian foreign minister stressed on the need for Iran-Indian cooperation in international circles particularly the countries backing of the struggle of Africans against the Pretoria regime. Velayati said that the upcoming NAM meeting in Harare should be utilized to advance the anti-racism struggle.

In response, the Indian prime minister welcomed cooperation between the two countries in international societies. He furthermore emphasised on the need to further expand Iran-India relations.

Meanwhile, in another meeting with Indian Vice-President Ramaswamy Venkataraman here Friday Velayati said that Tehran and New Delhi are willing to cooperate in international societies and expand bilateral ties among them.

"Such cooperation can be an appropriate pattern for improving relations of these two non-aligned and developing countries", Velayati said.

Velayati told the Indian official that he was "satisfied" with the outcome of talks with the country's officials.

The Indian vice-president said he fully agreed with the Iranian foreign minister's views. He also reiterated his country's desire for expanded bilateral cooperation with Iran, particularly in the field of trade.

Foreign Minister Velayati also met separately with the speaker of the Indian House of the People, Balram Jhakhar in New Delhi Friday, during which he explained the role the Majlis (Parliament) plays in the Islamic Republic.

The Indian speaker called for expansion of Iran-Indian relations. He also expressed hope that he could visit Tehran soon in response to an invitation from his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Iranian delegation ended its three-day official visit here and left for Tehran Friday.

The delegation also met and conferred with Indian minister of human resources development and minister of state for external affairs.

A letter of understanding was also signed between the Iranian minister and his Indian counterpart Shiv Shankar here Wednesday.

Gandhi To Arrive in Harare 30 Aug for NAM Summit

BK251621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] An official announcement in New Delhi says that the prime minister will reach Harare on Saturday [30 August] for the [nonaligned] summit. As the outgoing chairman of the movement, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has to have the presummit consultations with the other leaders. He will also be the guest of honor at the Harare annual agriculture fair.

The Indian delegation to the summit will include the external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar; the minister of state, Mr K.R. Narayanan, and the minister of state for fertilizers, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, who was the secretary general of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit held in New Delhi. Mr Mohammad Yunus, chairman of the Trade Fair Authority, and senior officials are also in the delegation.

WPC Head Urges NAM Summit To View Disarmament

BK250941 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] The World Peace Council has urged the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] meeting being held at Harare next month to persuade the United States to joint the Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, the president of the council, Mr Romesh Chandra, said the ending of all nuclear tests is the most important issue of the day. He said all issues before the Harare summit — like development, eradication of apartheid, and political solutions to conflicts — are closely linked with the key issue of disarmament. He also urged the coming session of the UN General Assembly to extend full support to the six-nation peace initiative at its meeting in Mexico. The Harare summit is scheduled to open on the 1st of next month. Leaders of the 101 Nonaligned Movement nations are to take part.

Reports from Harare say the Zimbabwe prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, who will succeed the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, as chairman of the movement will seek to muster support of the other leaders for wide ranging economic sanctions against the South African regime.

General Amnesty Declared for Overground Mizo Men

BK230900 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] The Mizoram chief minister, Mr Laldenga, has announced a general amnesty to all Mizo National Front [MNF] men who have come overground. Speaking to newsmen in Aijal, Mr Laldenga said the primary task of his government is to combat corruption at all levels.

Referring to the setting up of vigilance commission in the new state, he said he would discuss the issue at the Cabinet meeting. The chief minister expressed the hope that the Congress-I-MNF Coalition Ministry would run smoothly and it will come up to the expectations of the people.

People's Movement Urged Against Pakistani Terrorists

BK241651 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, has called for launching a people's movement to strengthen unity and maintain communal harmony. He was addressing a public meeting at (Lalruh) in Patiala District today. He said Pakistan is encouraging and aiding terrorists in Punjab in a bid to divert the attention of its own people from the basic issues.

Mr Azad reiterated that the center is committed to implement the Punjab accord in letter and spirit. Eight of its 11 clauses have already been implemented, he added.

SRI LANKA

AFP Cites Jayewardene on Ethnic Problems, Proposals

BK240634 Hong Kong AFP in English 0618 GMT 24 Aug 86

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 24 (AFP) — Government proposals to set up provincial councils in a bid to end Sri Lanka's ethnic crisis will go before Parliament next month, President Junius Jayewardene said Saturday.

Mr Jayewardene told a public rally outside Colombo that he hoped to solve the Tamil "terrorist problem" before the end of the year.

He said the government would call on Tamil militants fighting a bloody campaign for an independent state in the north and east of the island to give up their arms and close down their bases.

"If they accept non-violence and are prepared to follow the path of democracy I will consider using my presidential prerogative to pardon them," he said.

Mr Jayewardene said that steps would be taken to hold elections for provincial councils in the north and east after the government first carried the "message" about the peace plan to those areas.

Before the provincial councils headed by a chief minister are set up, he said, all majority Sinhalese families displaced from their homes in the north and east will be re-settled there.

Steps would also be taken to bring back some 100,000 minority Tamils who fled their homes and sought refuge in Tamil Nadu in southern India, he added.

Mr Jayewardene said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi fully supported a government peace plan now being discussed with the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party.

He said his government would allow opponents of the plan to grant Tamils limited autonomy to make themselves heard, but would not tolerate attempts at stirring up violence.

Mr Jayewardene said that if Sri Lanka can obtain the support of the TULF, Tamil Nadu, India and other countries for the peace proposals, it would be easy to defeat the Tamil militant groups and ensure peace.

"That is my aim and it is your duty to support his government. These proposals are the remedy for the current problem," he told the rally.

The main opposition party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), headed by former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, and sections of the influential Buddhist clergy have opposed the peace plan, saying it will destroy the country's unitary nature and pave the way for separation in the future.

Meanwhile, well-informed sources told *Agence France-Presse* that New Delhi is likely to be the venue for possible talks between the Colombo government and the Tamil militant groups based in Madras, southern India.

These talks, if they materialise under Indian Government pressure on the militants to attend, would be held after Colombo reaches agreement on the peace package with the TULF, the sources said.

The discussions between the government and the TULF are scheduled to resume Monday.

Some Tamil militant groups have expressed scepticism about the talks between the TULF and the government, saying Colombo's proposals do not go far enough to meet their demands for a separate Tamil homeland.

There had been indications earlier that possible talks between the government and the Tamil militants would be held in a third country.

But sources said India appeared to favour holding the talks in New Delhi, where all parties concerned could attend and India would be in a better position to use its influence over the militants to help find a solution to the Tamil problem.

Security Minister on Conflict

BK231409 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1335 GMT 23 Aug 86

["OANA-Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 23 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has said that Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene has presented a series of proposals taking the wishes of all citizens into considration to end the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) announced in its evening news bulletin today.

Mr Athulathmudali made this observation when he addressed representatives from his electorate in Ratmalana in the Colombo District.

The minister said that mere criticism of the proposals was of no use and critics should put forward their alternative proposals.

Minister Athulathmudali pledged that the government would end the ethnic conflict in the country although there had been criticism that it could not be solved by the present government.

Talks Between Ministers, TULF Delegation Continue

BK251515 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1238 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Colombo, Aug 25 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene will meet the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) Secretary General A. Amirthalingam and other members of the TULF Politburo for the sixth day tomorrow (August 26) in the second round of talks aimed to solve the ethnic crisis in the country.

The TULF delegation met Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo this morning to discuss financial matters with regard to the proposed provincial councils system.

The talks lasted nearly two hours.

Later, the TULF delegation met Sri Lankan Lands and Land Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake to discuss matters on land settlement.

Tomorrow's talks with President Jayewardene will also be held at the BMICH in Colombo.

Separatists Continue To Fire Mortars at Jaffna Fort

BK230939 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0756 GMT 23 Aug 86

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 23 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists in northern Sri Lanka who have been incessantly attacking the Jaffna fort from within the security zone which is populated by civilians yesterday resorted to firing mortars from the cover of the Vembadi College premises.

Government sources told LANKA PUWATH that from 1300 hours (local time) yesterday terrorists began firing mortars from within the security zone and specially from the Vembadi College premises. Increased terrorist activity including building of bunkers, piling up arms and ammunition are reported from the Jaffna peninsula. This build up is in anticipation of a ceasefire which will give added leverage to the terrorirsts who are now up to extortion and robbery in Sri Lanka's north and east.

Communique Warns of Retaliation

BK231119 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] A government communique says that the security forces will be compelled for their own safety to retaliate if the terrorists continue their mortar attack on the Jaffna fort. Reports say that the terrorists are consistently attacking the Jaffna fort from within the security zone. Their objective has been to provoke the security forces so that civilians and even the Jaffna (?hospital) could be caught in the cross fire.

4 Terrorists Killed in Return Fire

BK241315 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1254 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] Colombo, Aug 24 (LANKA PUWATH) — Four separatist terrorists were believed killed when government troops

returned fire from the Jaffna fort army camp in northern Sri Lanka this evening.

Government sources told LANKA PUWATH that terrorists fired mortars from within the security zone toward the Jaffna Fort army camp this afternoon.

Terrorists once again fired mortars toward the camp at 1610 hours (local time) in the evening.

Two mortar shells fell into the camp and two soldiers were wounded.

Troops returned fire and it is believed that four terrorists were killed.

A government spokesman told LANKA PUWATH that continued mortar attacks on the army camp in the Jaffna fort from within the security zone were intended to disrupt talks for a peaceful settlement to the ethnic problem which are now in progress between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

TULF Conveys Protest to Jayewardene

BK260306 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] has lodged a strong protest with the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, against the shelling of civilians by security forces in the northern town of Jaffna. The protest was conveyed at an unscheduled meeting between the TULF delegation and Mr Jayewardene in Colombo yesterday.

Delhi Reports Renewed Fighting in Kilinochchi

BK251615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] In northern Sri Lanka, two armymen were killed and two officers and five other security personnel were injured this morning when an army patrol was attacked by the militants in Kilinochchi. A government communique in Colombo said the patrol had to return fire in the face of heavy firing. Reports from the area spoke of helicopters being used for straffing suspected militant hideouts in Kilinochchi which were denied by a spokesman of the Joint Operations Command. The spokesman claimed that the Jaffna fort camp and also the security forces camps at Pannai and (Nawakodi) came under heavy mortar fire from the militants today.

'At Least' 6 Reportedly Killed

BK260858 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, reports from Kilinochchi say at least six civilians including two women were killed yesterday following a 4-hour battle between the security forces and the militants. The battled erupted when the security forces patrol was attacked by the militants. Two armymen were killed and seven, including two officers, injured in the heavy fire.

USSR To Aid Caspian Sea Oil Exploration

LD261036 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — Iran will start exploiting oil and natural gas resources of the southern coasts of the Caspian Sea in the near future. The Soviet Union will assist Iran in technical matters of the project.

The Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh in his recent visit to Moscow discussed exploitation of the Caspian oil and natural gas reserves with the Soviet officials. Following the talks, it was announced that under an agreement Iran may use Soviet equipment for drilling and exploiting the resources.

The idea of exploiting the Caspian Sea resources was for the first time announced after a cabinet ministers session last winter. The Iranian oil minister later discussed the issue with a visiting Soviet Foreign Ministry official.

For the past two decades the Soviets have been pumping some 200,000 barrels of oil and substantial amount of gas per day from the northern and central sectors of the Caspian Sea. However, activities of Iran in southern shores of the lake have only been limited to exploration which showed large reserves of oil and natural gas.

Exploitation of reserves in the southern Caspian sea will change economic profile of the Caspian Sea area. According to experts, a small oil well drilled in the area will yield an annual income of 200 million rials (U.S. dls. 2.5 billion dollars).

Following negotiate Soviets [as received], they agreed in principle to cooperate with Iran in drilling operations to explore the reserves in the southern sector of the Caspian Sea. To this end an Iranian oil experts team will travel to Moscow in September and also teams of both countries are scheduled to meet the same month to draw up the programme.

No final decision has yet been made on ways of cooperation with the Soviet Union. However, out of the three options of purchase or lease of the equipment, and cooperation in the form of a contract, one will be picked.

If everything goes well, exploration and exploitation activities of the resources are expected to start in the near future.

Velayati Returns; Comments on Visit

LD221756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati returned to Tehran this afternoon having concluded his visits to India and Pakistan and having held talks with the officials of the two countries. On his arrival at Mehrabad airport he answered questions put to him by our correspondent on the results of the visit:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, would you please comment on your visits to India and Pakistan and the talks you held with the officials of the two countries?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My visit to India and Pakistan was in line with similar visits to the member-countries of the Nonaligned Movement. These trips are necessary on the eve of the summit conference which is to take place in Harare. They take place with the friendly countries which have had a long-standing experience within the Nonaligned Movement about the topics which are to be raised by the conference. That is why we have these talks and exchanges of views. There is no doubt that such exchanges of views and coordinations will help to arrive at more decisive decisions and [word indistinct] at the forthcoming summit in order to tackle the problems facing the Third World countries.

One of the topics which will undoubtedly be raised at Harare and which will involve a great deal of debate will be the question of which country is to host the ninth session. So far there have been two official candidates and several unofficial ones for the next session.

What I have gathered from the various consultations is the fact that practically all or a great majority of the member countries believe that measures must be taken to strictly avoid any topic which might cause division within the movement, even if it concerns determining the venue of the ninth session. Then there are some groups which believe that if no final decision is made at the summit about the ninth session, or if it involves certain problems, then it would be better to defer any decision in this regard to be dealt with by the foreign ministers' conference, which will be held later. There were, of course, other issues which have already been mentioned in earlier interviews, such as the question of apartheid, the Palestinian issue, the question of Afghanistan, as well as economic problems [word indistinct] in the Third World, the movement's solidarity, its unwavering path, and the prevention of any influence by the the right or left-wing blocs in the movement. These are the important topics which will be discussed during the summit.

[Correspondent] Did any discussion take place about the imposed war?

[Velayati] There is every likelihood that the question of the imposed war will be raised at the Harare session. The topic has already been mentioned in the draft resolution. What we have in mind, about which we have already informed the countries that have consulted us, is that Iraq must be denounced as the aggressor as well as the one which has violated international law. [end recording]

Syrian Vice President Conducts Visit

Arrives in Tehran

LD230714 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam heading a political delegation arrived here Saturday morning. The Syrian delegation was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Deputy for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam and other officials.

In an interview at the airport, Khaddam said he planned to discuss with the Iranian officials issues related to situation in the region and matters of mutual interest.

The Syrian vice-president is scheduled to meet President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

Received by Khamene'i

LD231743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] The Syrian vice president, who is heading a high-ranking political delegation currently in Tehran, met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this morning.

During this 120-minute long meeting, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam conveyed warm greetings from Hafiz al-Asad, president of Syria, and noted the common stand adopted by Iran and Syria in confronting all imperialist and Zionist plots. He said: Liberated people of the world everywhere sympathize with the Islamic revolution in Iran and believe that the revolution has bravely confronted the United States and Zionism. Emphasizing that the United States caused the criminal Saddam to start the war, he said: We are certain that if it had not been for the war, hundreds of thousands of Iranians would today have been side by side with the Syrians and against the occupier regime in Jerusalem.

Expressing his gratitude for the message from President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and his gracious respect for (?religious) issues, President Khamene'i praised Syria's confrontation of the occupier regime in Jerusalem and reiterated the absolute support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the progressive and principled stands adopted by the friendly and fraternal country of Syria in confronting imperialist and Zionist plots.

Departs for Damascus 24 Aug

LD240816 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left Tehran for Damascus Saturday after submitting a message of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to his Iranian counterpart, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

This is the second message of Hafiz al-Asad for President Khamene'i within the past five days. The first message was submitted to the president by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Pakistani Finance Minister Arrives for Talks

LD231206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Pakistani Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, arrived in Tehran this morning to participate in the second joint Pakistani-Iranian Economic Committee. He was met by Iranian Economy and Finance minister Mohammad Javad Iravani.

Mr Wattoo, who is heading a delegation and participating in the two countries' joint committee, and also is representing Pakistan's ministries of state for Commerce, Railways, Food and Agriculture, Finance and Economic Affairs, Petroleum, and Banking, in an interview with a Central News Unit reporter, while expressing pleasure at the opportunity to visit Iran, stated:

In view of the two countries' common religious, cultural, and historical ties, and the closeness in their viewpoints expressed within the organizations and assemblies to which both countries belong, bilateral cooperation must expand.

He added: In this joint committee it is intended to review proposals relating to agriculture, communications, education, and other fields, and greater cooperation must be established.

It must be noted that the volume of bilateral commercial and trade exchanges in the year 1983-84, reached $138 million and totaled $167 million during the past 11 months.

Received by Khamene'i

LD251308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] This morning Pakistan's finance minister, Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, conferred with President Khamene'i. At the meeting, Commerce and Finance Minister Irvani, and the presidential advisor, the director general of the Foreign Ministry for economicaffairs, and the ambassadors of the two countries were present.

The Pakistani minister conveyed warm greetings from President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and termed as very successful the outcome of Khamene'i's visit to Pakistan. He expressed the desire for a further expansion of bilateral relations.

Thanking the president of Pakistan for his warm message, Khamene'i welcomed the expansion of bilateral relations in all fields. Noting the importance of the Persian language in bringing closer and strengthening bilateral relations, he stated: Some world policy-makers are worried about cooperation between neighboring countries, particularly between Iran and Pakistan, in cultural, economic, and other fields. They will try to raise many obstructions in this respect but the two nations must make progress in all these fields despite all odds. He added: Pakistan is an Islamic country and the Islamic fervor of your nation is most invigorating and deep. Pakistan has seen many prominent Islamic figures on its soil during the past century. This proves that Islam is so deeply rooted among your people that the global arrogance has not been able to deny it to your people.

Attends First Session of Commission

LD251654 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA — Visiting Pakistani Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattooparticipated in the first session of Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission here Monday.

Speaking at the meeting the Pakistani minister termed the session "beneficial" for both countries and said the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Pakistan was dlrs. 114 million in 1979-80 while it reached its peak of dlrs. 538 million in 1983-84.

The amount of bilateral trade was dlrs. 187 million from April 1985 to May 1986, Wattoo said.

Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani also said in the session that Iran gives special priority to its relations with Pakistan as a Muslim and neighbouring country.

He said the visit of the Pakistani delegation here is an appropriate opportunity to further expand Tehran-Islamabad relations.

The Pakistani delegation arrived here Saturday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Visit to Khorasan
NC230730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Excerpts] Islamic Majlis Speaker, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who visited Khorasan Province, returned to Tehran yesterday evening. Before leaving Mashhad, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council gave an interview to our correspondent and commented on the outcome of his 5-day trip to Khorasan:

[Begin Recording] [Passage omitted] I inspected the gas refinery and saw the plan to exploit the gas deposits in the region which, in my opinion, are very important and vital and will play a major role in the country's future, both for domestic use and for exports. You, of course, know that we have very rich gas resources. It is said that our known gas resources can supply us for 400 years. Our untapped resources may be much more. Therefore, if we can export gas it will be very good in the present situation. We can export less oil and more gas.

We also inspected animal husbandry, agricultural, and fishery projects in the holy province. It was very interesting for me to see the investments made by the provincial administration especially in the Sarakhs region which will play a basic role in the future development of agriculture in Sarakhs. I think that (?this will transform the area), especially when the waters of the Harirud River are exploited. These waters, unfortunately, (?were wasted) in the past, flowing into Soviet territory. A number of canals have been built so far and others are underway. I saw (?an example of this) that was very interesting.

I saw the plan for the reconstruction of the Mashhad (?traffic circle). To date I had not had a good chance to see it. It is a very important plan and, God willing, when completed the situation around the shrine will totally change and many facilities will be created for the pilgrims so that they (?can travel more easily).

I also had to visit other places. I met with the Armed Forces, the Revolution Guards Corps, and the Basij forces. We discussed the dispatch of forces to complete the 500 battalions. (?We deemed it necessary to discuss this) with the people in charge. We also met with the Basij councils.

Praise to God, it was a fruitful trip and, God willing, it will have good effects as far as the war and the country's affairs are concerned. [end recording]

Majlis Speaker Speech at War Relief Headquarters
LD241858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Excerpts] The second nationwide Labbayk Ya Imam seminar of the War Relief Headquarters was opened this afternoon with a speech by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council. [passage omitted]

In a speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, emphasizing that forces are not the only effective factors in wars, said: Preparations of fronts and forces are among the important issues which must be attended to; for in these respects the people play a major role in the preparation of the fronts and forces.

Referring to today's speech by the imam of the ummah, he called upon Friday imams and governors-general to make available the popular and governmental facilities to be used for the purpose of the war in order to bring victories closer. Commenting on the pressures applied by global arrogance to bring the Islamic revolution to its knees, the Majlis speaker noted recent conspiracies hatched by the enemies, adding: Somehow they were under the impression that by attacking Sirri and a couple of ships, and creating some propaganda uproar they could weaken and, consequently, deal us a blow.

Emphasizing that we must remain resilient in this war, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted the need for a comprehensive participation of officials and directors in the war; he then called on military officials to manage the situations in the battlefronts in such a manner so as to make proper use of the climate in the battlefront in preparing their forces. Referring to Saddam's peace-loving claim and the propaganda clamor throughout the world in promoting it, he said: We must not give our enemy any time to make any plans. God willing, once we begin our comprehensive offensive, then we must maintain our balance, so as to prevent the enemy from making any mischievous plans and preparing himself.

Alluding to the reopening of Baqi cemetery by Saudi Arabia to make it possible for the pilgrims to pay homage, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Saudi Arabia should have made this move when the Mecca pilgrimage began, thus helping our two countries' friendship. Referring to the arrest of a number of Iranian pilgrims by Saudi Arabia in the early stages of their arrival in that country, he interpreted the act as a plot to distort the glorious demonstrations held by Iranian pilgrims in Mecca as well as a move to render these demonstrations as harsh and rough. He said: Having arrested our pilgrims, Saudi Arabia accused them of having carried certain items with them; Saudi Arabia did not

even bother to inform us. The fact is that we do have an embassy there; moreover, the imam's representative was also there. Saudi Arabia should have informed them both.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then emphasized: This experience is full of ambiguities. They have arrested a number of our pilgrims, the pilgrims who are totally incapable of commiting such acts. To begin with, we have our doubts about the existence of anything in their sacks. These accusations could be leveled against others anywhere. We, too, can level similar accusations against foreign airlines' passengers who come to our country. The problem is why Saudi Arabia failed to notify us as soon as possible. He added: We cannot overlook the probability that, if anything had been found in their sacks, this could have been a plot hatched by the hypocrites [monafeqin] and U.S. and Israeli agents. Saudi Arabia then took these pilgrims to Mecca to pay homage. Well, if they were saboteurs, then why is it that despite the presence of great multitudes of people, Saudi Arabia managed to take them to Mecca?

He then said that while we do express our gratitude for the reopening of this holy cemetery, nevertheless we do have this serious complaint against Saudi Arabia for having failed to release our pilgrims. Saudi Arabia cannot apply pressure on us by means of this incident; we will not forget this incident easily. We call on Saudi Arabia to release our pilgrims and then settle the problem through bilateral negotiations in order to clarify the matter and punish the offender, if there is any.

He stressed that the incident may prove costly for the bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Says 'Upper Hand' Held in War

LD252020 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA — President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said Monday that Iraq was naturally incapable of holding a powerful presence in the war.

Addressing a session of the 'Consent to the Imam Seminar' here Monday, the president added that the Islamic Republic is holding the upper hand in the war and that all facilities should be mobilized to deal the fatal blow on the enemy.

Khamane'i also said that the elapse of time would not make Iran tired and that its huge facilities will never reduce against the will of satanic powers.

Our enemies, said the president, are waiting to see the extent of Iran's strength in countering the global plots. He emphasized that the enemy has really got tired and that Iraq's military system, from a simple soldier to Saddam himself, have all lost their morale.

Present at the 'Consent to Imam Seminar' are the president and head of the Supreme Defence Council, the Majlis speaker and Imam Khomeyni's representative at the SDC Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, members of the SDC, commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and the Army. Friday prayer leaders and governors general from throughout the country as well as members of the War Support High Council.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,572

LD231646 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — Iranian Air Force jet-fighters heavily bombarded an Iraqi garrison and fuel tanks of Jalawlaa City, Diyala Province, (northern Iraq) at 1325 hours local time (0955 GMT) Saturday, according to a military communique released here Saturday.

Communique number 2,572 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the Iranian jet-fighters inflicted heavy damage on the enemy and returned to their bases safely.

The communique added that naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran intercepted a foreign cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed to to proceed on its voyage since it carried no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard.

Iran's gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions as well as armoured and motorized columns of the enemy killing or wounding at least eight Iraqi soldiers, said the communique. An Iraqi tank, a munitions depot, four heavy and light vehicles, and two group and individual bunkers were destroyed in the shelling, it added.

The communique said that exchange of fire raged on in southern, western, and north-western fronts, being more intense in Zayd, Sumar, and Hajj 'Umran operational regions.

It added that the Iranian Muslim combatants dispatched patrol units for reconnaissance and rained artillery and mortar fire on the Iraqi positions, fortifications, and supply lines killing or wounding a considerable number of enemy forces. At least five Iraqi group bunkers, seven heavy vehicles, and two munitions depots of the enemy were destroyed in the shelling, the communique added.

Communique 2,573

LD241635 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — A considerable number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and nine enemy bunkers and observation posts, two vehicles, and part of a mine field destroyed in the western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Saturday. Exchange of artillery fire raged more heavily in Kani-Sheykh, said a military communique here Sunday.

Joint staff communique number 2573 said that several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and five enemy bunkers and two munitions dumps destroyed in the northwestern fronts Saturday as their positions were reconnoitered and shelled by Iranian forces.

The exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued in the northwestern fronts with Iranian forces holding the upper hand, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian Muslim combatants reconnoitered and heavily shelled Iraqi positions Saturday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy forces.

Elsewhere in the southern fronts, Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and damage when their positions and supply routes came under artillery fire of Iranian gendarmerie forces Saturday, according to the communique.

The communique futrthermore said that two convoys of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Sumar on Friday incurred heavy casualties and were forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire.

Iran's Navy continued its air and maritime patrols in the Persian Gulf and in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, the joint staff commuique said.

Communique No. 2,574

LD251615 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA — Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 11 enemy bunkers and observation posts, four vehicles, two command jeeps, and one artillery piece destroyed throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Sunday, said a military communique here Monday.

Joint Staff Communique number 2574 said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected five cargo ships and oil tankers sailing under foreign flags in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday but allowed the ships to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and nine enemy observation posts and bunkers together with two supply vehicles destroyed in the western fronts Sunday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

The military communique said that Iranian gendarmeric forces pounded Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Monday destroying two enemy bunkers and two command jeeps.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, two military and engineering vehicles and one artillery piece of Iraqi forces were destroyed sunday when they were subjected to Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian Muslim combatants reconnoitered and heavily shelled Iraqi positions in the southern fronts on Sunday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy forces, the communique said.

In Eynkhosh and Al-Faw operational theaters Iraqi tank fire was silenced and their operations disrupted when they came under Iranian artillery fire on Sunday, according to the communique.

The joint staff communique said that movements of Iraqi supply vehicles and of those carrying personnel at heights of Kalaleh and Chuman-Mostafa were checked on Sunday.

Turkey Alleged To Use Napalm on Iraqi Kurds

LD230903 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] According to informed sources in Ankara the Turkish Army has intensified its operations in eastern Turkey and on Iraqi soil against Kurdish insurgents. According to AFP the Turkish forces in Turkey's eastern provinces have recently been appreciably strengthened and their number now exceeds 150,000. According to this report raids launched by military aircraft and ground units of the Turkish Army against the Kurdish Muslims in northern Iraq have been carried out within the context of the Baghdad-Ankara agreement concluded in 1984, in accordance with which the two sides have been given the right of carrying out pursuit operations in each other's territory.

According to sources close to Turkish intelligence services, in the course of the bombing of areas in northern Iraq dozens of insurgents were killed. In the meantime, according to Kurdish insurgents, in the course of this bombing 200 — mostly civilians — were killed. According to sources close to the intelligence services, since that time some 50 insurgents have been captured in the course of commando operations using Turkish Army helocopters in Iraqi territory. These intervention operations in Iraq have taken place for the second time since the extensive operations carried out by the Turkish Army in May 1983. At that time 10,000 Turkish Army troops, with Baghdad's permission, carried out operations in Iraqi soil.

According to AFP the Turkish authorities are extremely disturbed, particularly about operations carried out by Turkish insurgents against the pipeline linking the Kirkuk oilfields in northern Iraq with the Turkish port of Yermuk [as heard] on the Mediterranean. According to this report, Turkish military aircraft in bombing Kurdish positions in northern Iraq, with collaboration and consent of Baghdad, have made use of napalm bombs.